

Poverty Pickets Get Paper-Bag Dousing On Madison Avenue

By JOHN KIFNER

More than 300 poor people and antipoverty workers picketed the Madison Avenue headquarters of the Office of Economic Opportunity yesterday, demanding more money for city programs, but they received only a pelting by water bombs apparently thrown by irate office workers.

The demonstration was organized by the Citywide Community Action Groups, a recently formed alliance of local agencies, to protest the Federal limitation of \$36-million on the city's year-round anti-poverty program and \$10-million on its separate summer program.

Demonstrators began arriving at 11 A.M. for their 4½-hour protest. The police moved the line from the sidewalk to the street, partially blockading the block between 40th and 41st Streets. The pickets chanted: "O-E-O we've got the poverty, where's the dough?" They carried signs identifying their areas and organizations and demanding "Money not Promises."

Several men carrying attache cases and squash rackets glared at the marching and shouting pickets, who included several Roman Catholic priests, before the Economic Opportunity agency's office at 295 Madison Avenue.

"Those priests should be in their churches instead of out here demonstrating on the street," a woman said angrily.

Shortly after the demonstration began, a series of hand-printed signs were taped to the inside of the second-story windows of 285 Madison Avenue, half a block away. The building is occupied almost entirely by the Young & Rubicam advertising agency. The signs read: "If you want money, get yourself a job"; "You voted for Lindsay—see him"; "Support your local police—no review board," and "Goldwater '68."

A container of water was pitched out of one of the windows of the building, splashing two spectators.

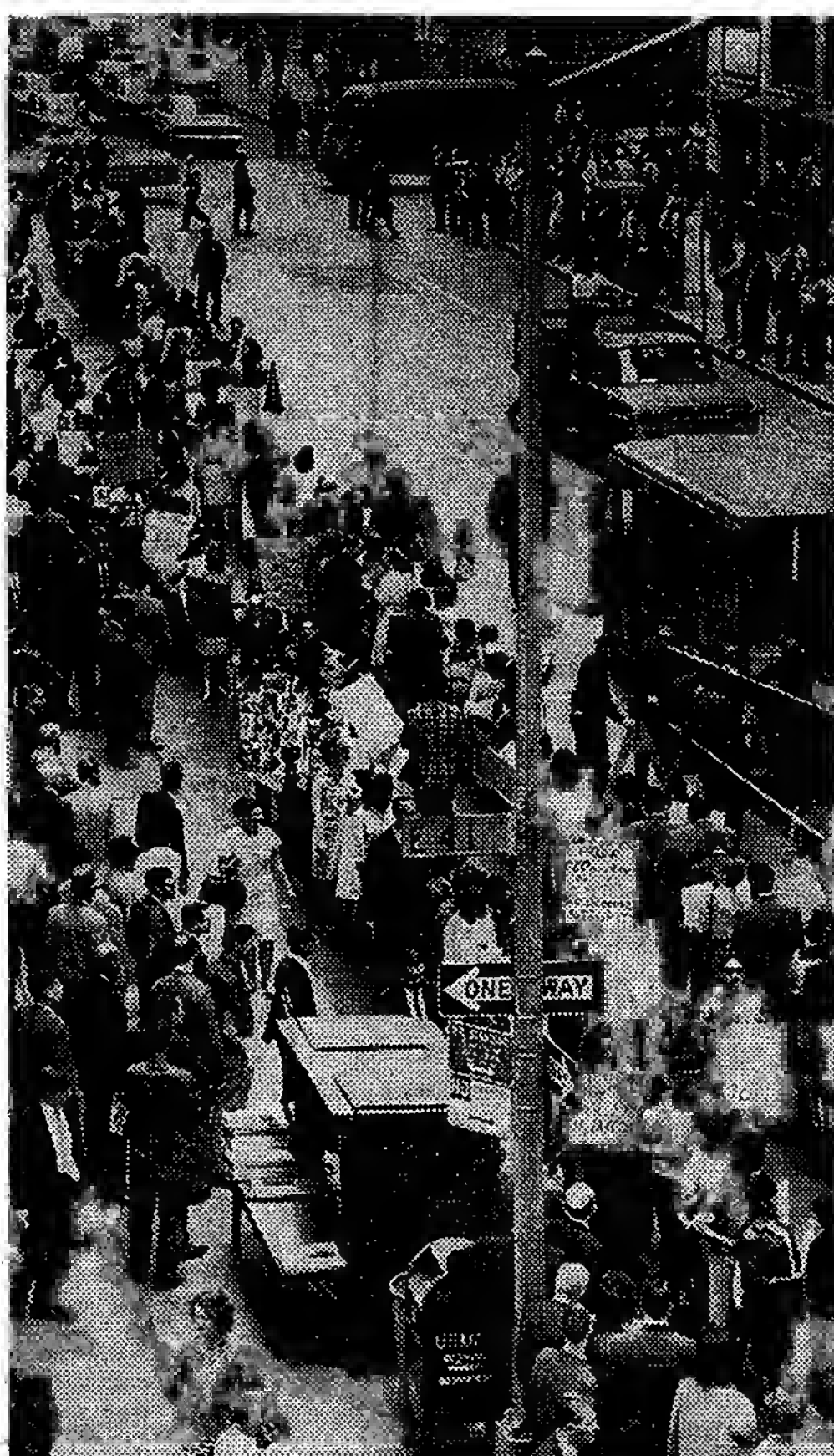
Pickets Hit by Water Bags

Later, two demonstrators were hit by water-filled paper bags thrown from the building.

One of the water bombs struck James Hill, 19 years old, of 224 York Street, Brooklyn, who then slipped and fell to the pavement. He was not hurt.

The other struck 9-year old Mike Robinson of 777 Fox Street, the Bronx.

Mrs. Esmé Robinson, the boy's mother, and several other angry women immediately went up to the sixth-floor offices of Young & Rubicam, from which several onlookers said they had seen the water bombs thrown.



The New York Times (by Carl T. Gossett Jr.)
ANTIPOVERTY PICKETS: Protesters march outside the Madison Avenue headquarters of the Office of Economic Opportunity to demand more funds for city programs.

But a secretary in the office said:

"That's ridiculous, they didn't come from this floor. This is the executive floor. That's utterly ridiculous."

"Don't you call us ridiculous. Is this what Madison Avenue represents?" shouted one of the women.

"And they call us savages," exclaimed Mrs. Vivian Harris, another of the women.

Manager Apologizes

The women were invited to the second floor to meet with Frank Coppola, the Young & Rubicam office manager, who apologized for the incident. He told them:

"We have 1,600 people in this building, and I can't control all of them. I've ordered all the windows closed and I have men patrolling all the floors to make sure this doesn't happen again."

The group was joined by R. C. Killin, a vice president of the advertising agency. Mr. Killin also apologized.

Meanwhile, representatives of the protesters met with Robert J. Mangum, Northeast regional director of the O.E.O. in his office at 295 Madison Avenue.

After the meeting, Mr. Mangum reiterated that "there is no more Federal money available."

"They asked me if I would convey their displeasure to Mr.

Shriver [director of the O.E.O.], Mr. Mangum said, "and I shall." He went on:

"Actually, New York is getting more than its fair share of the money.

"This is the fault of the city. These groups have been told they would have the money, and some of them are quite chagrined. My own feeling is that they should not have been encouraged in this way."

Following a 40-minute caucus, Frank Espada, the chairman of the protest delegation, said:

"We have heard nothing new. The feeling of the delegation is anger, frustration, and a determination to go beyond this office—to President Johnson if necessary—to ask him to intervene directly in this catastrophe."

The picketing group indicated it planned to meet with the New York Congressional delegation to increase the allocation for the anti-poverty program.

Democratic Representatives James A. Scheuer and John Gilbert of the Bronx and Leonard Farbstein of Manhattan were among the onlookers at the demonstration.

Mr. Scheuer said that the Bronx had been "grossly discriminated against" in the distribution of antipoverty funds. He attributed the situation to the area's "totally decadent political leadership."